

Glossary of Terms

April 2022



Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) came into force in 2018 and transforms existing homelessness legislation, placing a greater focus on homelessness prevention.

New provisions introduced by the HRA include:

- Duty to prevent and relieve homelessness.
- Requirement to carry out an assessment and personalised housing plan.
- Public bodies now have a duty to refer people whom they know are threatened with homelessness.
- Applicants have the right to ask for a review of any points of the new legislation.

Homes for Cathy

Homes for Cathy is a national alliance of housing associations, charities and local authorities working together to end homelessness.

Housing Association

Housing Associations provide homes and support for and offer social homes, shared ownership homes, some market homes to rent and buy and essential supported and specialist housing.

Housing Options & Homelessness Service

Housing Options & Homelessness Services are departments within district and borough Councils who fulfil the Council's statutory duties in relation to homelessness. Their main focus will be on preventing and relieving homelessness, alongside providing emergency accommodation to those that become homeless who are in priority need.

Multi-Disciplinary Teams

Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) are the mechanism for organising and coordinating health care and support services to meet the needs of individuals with complex and multiple needs.

Partner Agencies

Agencies involved in delivering key services directly or indirectly to clients who are homeless or in housing difficulty, and includes Housing Associations, Supported Housing Providers,

probation, health, mental health, police, substance misuse services, homeless charities, Shelter Cymru.

Private Rented Accommodation

Accommodation rented from private landlords, offers less security than social housing.

Rapid Rehousing

An approach to ending someone's homelessness by moving them into their own home as soon as possible. It is the counter approach to the traditional 'staircase' model where people move out of homelessness in a series of stages often involving them meet a series of conditions before moving to the next form of housing.

Supported Housing

Supported housing services range widely, but provide a safe and secure home with support for people to live independently. This includes:

- Providing the housing and support older people need to maintain their independence.
- Providing emergency refuge and support for victims of domestic abuse, helping to stabilise their family life and engage with other services.
- Working with homeless people, some with complex and multiple needs, to secure longer-term accommodation or a permanent home, education, training or employment.
- Supporting people with mental health needs when it is needed, to stabilise, recover and live more independently.
- Supporting veterans to find a stable home, including support for those with mental health and physical disability needs.
- Supporting people with learning disabilities in the longer term to maximise their independence and exercise choice and control over their lives.

Social Housing Provider

Organisations that provide social housing and can include both Council and Housing Associations. Social housing is generally more affordable than private rented accommodation and provides more longer term security.



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